

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MTN GE 01316 01 OF 02 231501Z

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05
CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
FEAE-00 OMB-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 OIC-02 /133 W
-----231515 012515 /41

P R 231424Z FEB 77

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2265

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MTN GENEVA 1316

ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: CUSTOMS MATTERS SUBGROUP MEETING: FEBRUARY 21, 1977

1. SUMMARY: SHORT ONE-DAY MEETING OF CUSTOMS MATTERS
SUBGROUP PROCEEDED AS EXPECTED EXCEPT THAT EC DEL
DID NOT MAKE A COMMITMENT TO TABLE A DRAFT VALUATION
CODE, BUT ONLY INDICATED THEIR INTENTION TO TABLE "AP-
PROPRIATE INITIATIVES" IF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH
CERTAIN DELEGATIONS PROVE FRUITFUL. US PROPOSAL FOR
NOTIFICATION/CONSULTATION PROCEDURES ON OTHER CUSTOMS
MATTERS WAS ACCEPTED BY SUBGROUP WITHOUT COMMENT.
END SUMMARY.

2. CUSTOMS VALUATION - DISCUSSION WAS CONDUCTED ALONG
OUTLINE AGREED TO BY THE EC, NORDICS AND THE US PRIOR
TO THE MEETING. NORDIC SPOKESMAN (HAGFORS OF
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MTN GE 01316 01 OF 02 231501Z

FINLAND) REITERATED NORDIC POSITION THAT NEGOTIATION
OF A CUSTOMS VALUATION SYSTEM WHICH WOULD BE UNIFORM
AND UNIVERSALLY APPLIED INTERNATIONALLY WAS A MAJOR
OBJECTIVE OF THE NORDICS IN THE MTN. NORDICS INDICATED
THAT SINCE A WORKABLE SET OF INTERNATIONAL RULES ALREADY
EXISTS IN VALUATION, THE OBVIOUS OBJECTIVE IS TO BROADEN
ITS ACCEPTANCE BY NON-ADHERENTS. HE WELCOMED THE US POSI-

TION SET FORTH IN THE OCTOBER CUSTOMS MATTERS SUBGROUP MEETING THAT THE US WAS NOT PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE ON CUSTOMS VALUATION AND INDICATED THE NORDICS WERE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY SUCH NEGOTIATIONS IF ANY APPROPRIATE INITIATIVES WERE FORTHCOMING. HAGFORS FURTHER INDICATED THAT THE NORDICS WOULD CONTINUE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH CERTAIN COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS IN CUSTOMS VALUATION.

3. EC DEL (CHUMAS) AGREED WITH NEED FOR INITIATION OF OPEN-MINDED DISCUSSION ON CUSTOMS VALUATION. HE INDICATED THAT THE EC SYSTEM BASED ON THE BRUSSELS DEFINITION OF VALUE WAS NOT PERFECT AND COULD BE IMPROVED. IN THIS REGARD, THE EC INDICATED THAT IT INTENDS TO PURSUE ITS BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS TO ASCERTAIN THEIR POSITIONS AND TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON VALUATION RULES WHICH MIGHT RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE. ON THIS BASIS, EC INDICATED IT WOULD TAKE "APPROPRIATE INITIATIVES" IF IT APPEARED AS A RESULT OF THESE CONTACTS THAT THERE MAY BE SOME POSSIBILITY OF REACHING AGREEMENT. FYI: WE HAD EXPECTED THE EC TO ANNOUNCE DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING THAT THEY WOULD TABLE A DRAFT CODE AT AN EARLY DATE. PRIOR TO THE MEETING, HOWEVER, CHUMAS TOLD US THAT THE 113 COMMITTEE HAD DECIDED THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO MAKE SUCH A COMMITMENT BEFORE A NEW STR WAS APPOINTED. END FYI.

4. IN RESPONSE TO EC STATEMENT, US DEL (NEWKIRK) REITERATED US POSITION THAT THE US WAS WILLING TO ENGAGE IN A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MTN GE 01316 01 OF 02 231501Z

SERIOUS WORK PROGRAM ON CUSTOMS VALUATION, BUT THAT SUCH DISCUSSION WOULD NOT COMMIT THE UNITED STATES TO ANY SPECIFIC SYSTEM AND THAT ANY CHANGES TO THE US SYSTEM WOULD REQUIRE APPROPRIATE RECIPROCITY. IN CONDUCTING SUCH A WORK PROGRAM, HOWEVER, THE US WOULD BE LOOKING TO OTHER DELEGATIONS TO PROVIDE INITIATIVES. THE US INDICATED THAT IT SHARED THE NORDIC HOPE OF AN EARLY TABLING OF IDEAS AND LOOKED FORWARD TO THE INITIATIVE OF THE EC.

5. CANADIAN DEL (GORE) REITERATED CANADIAN POSITION THAT CANADIAN INTEREST WOULD NOT BE SERVED BY TRYING TO NEGOTIATE A SINGLE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF VALUATION. THE CANADIANS, HOWEVER, WERE WILLING TO CONDUCT BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHAT PROBLEMS OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE WITH THE CANADIAN SYSTEM AND WOULD ATTEMPT TO WORK OUT THESE PROBLEMS BILATERALLY, SIMILARLY, THEY INTEND TO PURSUE PARTICULAR PROBLEMS THAT CANADA HAS EXPERIENCED WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MTN GE 01316 02 OF 02 231509Z
ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05
CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
FEAE-00 OMB-01 OIC-02 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 /133 W
-----231530 012650 /42

P R 231424Z FEB 77
FM USDEL MTN GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2266
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 MTN GENEVA 1316

ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

6. DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WAS LIMITED PRIMARILY TO BRIEF CONSIDERATION OF PRICE AND QUANTITY (FIRST TWO POINTS IN EC SUBMISSION MTN/NTM/W/65). EC NOTED THAT, IN PREPARING ANY POSSIBLE INITIATIVE, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO HAVE IDEAS AND COMMENTS OF OTHER DELS NOT ONLY ON SPECIFIC SUBSTANTIVE POINTS BUT ON DESIRED LEVEL OF DETAIL IN ANY NEW RULES AS WELL.

7. PRICE: AUSTRALIAN DEL CALLED ATTENTION TO ITS SUGGESTED ADDITIONS TO EC LIST (MTN/NTM/W/65/ADD.1). US DEL PREFACED REMARKS ON PRICE BY POINTING OUT THAT ITEMS SET FORTH IN MTN/NTM/W/65 WERE INTERRELATED AND WOULD REQUIRE CONSIDERATION AS A WHOLE WHEN DISCUSSING POSSIBLE NEW VALUATION RULES. AS FOR PRICE, US DEL GAVE COMMENTS BASED ON PARA . 1.1 AND 5.1 OF ATTACHMENT 1 OF TPSC 77-12. CANADIAN DEL INDICATED THAT "COMMON DELI-

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MTN GE 01316 02 OF 02 231509Z

VERED PRICES/ SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN DISCUSSION AND THAT CANADA WOULD SUBMIT A LIST OF ADDITIONS UNDER PRICE AT A LATER DATE. ISRAEL AND NIGERIA ALSO SPOKE BRIEFLY ABOUT PRICE.

8. QUANTITY: EC ASKED FOR COMMENTS ON QUANTITY FROM OTHER DELS SO THAT IT COULD TAKE THESE INTO ACCOUNT IN DEVELOPING INITIATIVE. EC DEL INDICATED THAT EC BASED ITS VALUATION ON ACTUAL QUANTITIES IMPORTED OR ON THE TOTAL QUANTITY OF AN ENTIRE CONTRACT WHERE GOODS WERE IMPORTED IN SEVERAL CONSIGNMENTS. AUSTRALIAN DEL QUESTIONED WHETHER THE IDEA OF BASING VALUATION ON ACTUAL QUANTITIES IMPORTED COULD BE CONTRARY TO THE INTEREST OF SMALLER EXPORTERS, AND THEREFORE, WONDERED WHETHER IT WAS POSSIBLE TO CREATE A SYSTEM THAT WAS TRULY NEUTRAL IN THIS REGARD. THE US DEL MADE STATEMENT ACCORDING TO PARA. 2.4 OF INSTRUCTIONS. IN ONLY SUBSTANTIVE INTERVENTION IN THIS MEETING, JAPANESE (MIYAKE) STATED THAT ANY RULES CONCERNING PRICE OR QUANTITY SHOULD BE DESIGNED WITH RESPECT TO THEIR PRACTICABILITY. FOR PRICE, ONE SHOULD UTILIZE PRICE OF GOODS AS ACTUALLY IMPORTED, AND FOR QUANTITY, ONE SHOULD UTILIZE THE VOLUME OF GOODS ACTUALLY IMPORTED. NO ADDITIONAL COMMENTS WERE MADE ON THE OTHER ITEMS OF EC LIST.

9. OTHER CUSTOMS MATTERS - US DEL PRESENTED MODIFIED PROPOSAL ON OTHER CUSTOMS MATTERS AND IT WAS ACCEPTED BY SUBGROUP WITHOUT DISCUSSION.

10. CUSTOMS FORM 5515 - US DEL REPORTED THE CHANGED FORMAT OF CUSTOMS FORM 5515 AND INDICATED THAT NEW FORM (1) HAD BEEN ALIGNED WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARD LAYOUT; (2) HAD REDUCED THE OVERALL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS; AND (3) HAD ELIMINATED SOME OF THE QUESTIONS THAT WERE PARTICULARLY TROUBLESOME TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE OLD DOCUMENT. HE INDICATED THAT THIS ACTION SHOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MTN GE 01316 02 OF 02 231509Z

PRESENT A USEFUL PRECEDENT TO THE NOTIFICATION/CONSULTATION PROCEDURES ON WHICH SEVERAL COUNTRIES WILL BE EMBARKING IN OTHER CUSTOMS MATTERS. US STATEMENT WAS WELCOMED BY EC, CANADIANS AND JAPANESE.

11. DATE FOR NEXT SUBGROUP MEETING WILL BE SET BY NTM PARENT GROUP. WALKER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CUSTOMS DUTIES, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MTNGE01316
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770062-1055
Format: TEL
From: MTN GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770218/aaaaapmw.tel
Line Count: 220
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 172d61c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION STR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3253656
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUSTOMS MATTERS SUBGROUP MEETING: FEBRUARY 21, 1977
TAGS: ETRD, MTN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/172d61c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009